

To: Members of Resident Council
Paula Brooks, Executive Director, Brookdale Statesman Club
All Residents of Brookdale Statesman Club

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

On July 29, I spoke with Ruth Rayburn, a member of Resident Council, about my letter of July 27, 2016. She said she had read it. She had an unusual theory for why Residents should not vote to elect their representatives to Resident Council. According to Ruth, **some residents are in wheel chairs and are so mentally inept that they cannot find their way to their room and are too mentally inept to vote. Therefore, all Residents should be barred from voting to elect members to Resident Council.**

I tried to explain to Ruth, to no avail, that being in a wheelchair and being mentally incompetent ought not disqualify a person from casting a ballot. The fact that some Residents may be mentally inept ought not disqualify all Residents from voting.

The whole concept of denying Residents the ability to elect residents at large to represent them on Resident Council is ridiculous. By copy of this to all Residents, I hope to highlight to caliber of representation we have on Resident Council. **Senior citizens in an independent living retirement home deserve better.**

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